The Drayton Valley
Western Review
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Tuesday, December 15, 2015

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Shakespeare

FMHS Advanced Acting Class presen... of the De...

32

TAXES UP

Town interim budget shows taxes in Drayton Valley will increase in 2016.

7

7 74675 33002 5
Vol. 50 No. 55 $1.25 incl. GST

Shakin' in Drayton

Jessica Kennedy Western Review

Humans Helping Humans Foundation held their Shakin' in Drayton fundraiser on Dec. 5 at the Mackenzie Centre. Pictured above is Jeannette Vetter and her partner Santiago Mendoza dancing the Salsa. For more photos, turn to page 14.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING HOURS:
Saturdays 10am - 4pm
Sunday, Dec. 13 & 20, Noon - 4pm
Late Night Shopping Starts
December 14th - M-F Open
9am-8pm
780-621-0845

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR DECEMBER DEALS & WE WILL STORE IT FOR THE WINTER & SUMMERIZE IT FOR YOU IN THE SPRING.
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Sales and Service for Maxwell

A will is probably the most important document that you will ever sign. Ensure your loved ones are cared for.
REID LAW OFFICE

TOYOTA
FREE Lifetime Engine Warranty on new Toyotas & Scions
DVtoyota.ca

Drayton Valley
STETSON GM
GMC

Congratulations to our $10,000 cash prize winners
RON & SHELLEY REICH
"Stetson Motors Home of the $10,000 Cash Give away!"

News

Passing the bucks around Drayton

Photo submitted

Stetson Motors staff collected $817.00 for the Drayton Valley Food Bank as well as two boxes (over 50 lbs of food to donate) at their staff Christmas party on Dec 5. In the picture is Vicki Baker and the Treasurer of our local food bank delivering the donation and food.

Photo submitted

ARC donated $1500.00 to the DV fFood Bank on December 3 along with large food item donations, all from ARC employees. (L. to r.) Justin Gregoire, Don Hayduk, Ron Cameron (Food Bank), Alan Barker, Patricia Wilkes, Trent Moore, Deb Harden and Roxanne Guyon.

Photo submitted

Soup Kitchen to sponsor their Christmas Dinner (Left – Right: Patricia Wilkes (ARC Resources Ltd.) & Amanda Evans (Warming hearts Soup Kitchen)

Photo submitted

ARC donated $700.00 to Operation Christmas Child to help with shipping costs along with 101 shoeboxes filled by employee donations. Pictured with the shoeboxes are ARC staff.

Need to get something off your chest? E-mail letters to the editor to dvwr@sunmedia.ca

Terrena Rizzoli, DD

RIZZOLI Denture & Implant Clinic

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All Dentures specifically tailored to meet each patients needs. We do our best accommodate out of town patients.

Jenn Stephens, DD

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TOWN OF DRAYTON VALLEY — PULLING TOGETHER

DRAYTON VALLEY

www.draytonvalley.ca

UP & COMING...

SINGLE & PARENTING?
Join the Bits & Bites Group • Municipal Library 5120-52 Street • Dec 19 • 2- 4 pm
Get together with other single parents, share tips and ideas over coffee.

To Register for the programs listed below drop by the Omniplex front desk or call/ email Sheila at 780-514-2560 programmingcoordinator@draytonvalley.ca Search Facebook for the Omniplex page

STROLLERCIZE
Omniplex Walk Track Cost $180.00 8 weeks
Mon & Wed Jan 11 to Mar 7 10:30 - 11:30 am
Buddle up your tots and bring them along in their stroller for an hour of intense exercise lead by Pam Mobing.

YOGA FOR KIDS
Location: T.B.A. Cost $50.00 8 weeks
Tues Feb 2 to March 22 10:30 - 11:30 am
Wiggle, stretch and move as we nurture our body mind and spirt. Join Trina to promote motor skills, body awareness and creativity. Please bring a yoga mat & water.

INDOOR PARENT & TOT PLAYSPACE
Location: T.B.A. Cost: $50.00 for 10 weeks, $75 per family for 10 weeks or $2.00 drop in
Move, climb, skip & tumble together. Parent and children enjoy the open gym and can interact in a fun and active environment . All equipment supplied. This is an unstructured parent program.
Mon Jan 18 to Mar 25 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
Wed Jan 18 to Mar 25 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Fri Jan 18 to Mar 25 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

MAD SCIENCE FOR KIDS
Location: T.B.A. Cost $60.00 8 weeks
Sat Jan 23 to March 12 10:00 - 12:00 pm
Looking for something to occupy your creative, scientific mind? This program will offer a different science/ craft experiment every week. Space is limited.

ART 8 X 8 WORKSHOP
Uncork your creativity and get your creative juices flowing. In this 3 hour paint class you will learn different painting techniques and go home with a finished product. Artistic ability not required, nor a benefit.
Location: T.B.A. Cost: T.B.A.
Thurs Jan 21 6:30 - 9:30 pm Chevron Mashup
Thurs Feb 4 6:30 - 9:30 pm Impressionist Waterscape
Thurs Feb 18 6:30 – 9:30 pm Tree of Life

INTUITIVE ART
Location: T.B.A. Cost :T.B.A.
Thurs Mar 3 to Apr 7 6:30 – 9:30 pm 6 weeks This workshop is about self expression and fun. No previous experience is required, nor a benefit. We are all artists. If you breathe you create. If you dream you can express. Through guided meditation, and a variety of games and exercises you will be given the foundation to capture your inner visions of wisdom and power. All materials are provided.

Holiday Waste Collection Schedule

Please be advised of the following changes for waste collection during the holiday seasons:

Waste will be collected on **Thursday, December 24, 2015 & Thursday December 31, 2015** as usual

Waste scheduled for pick up on Friday December 25 will be picked up **Saturday, December 26, 2015**

Waste scheduled for pick up on Friday January 1 will be picked up **Saturday, January 2, 2016**

Thank you for your co-operation!

When the snow falls please...

obey all posted no parking signs & move your car when required. Help us keep your streets clear of snow. Violation of the no parking signs will result in being tagged and/or towed at the owners' expense. The Town of Drayton Valley would like to remind its residents to keep their sidewalks clear of ice & snow and avoid shovelling snow onto the roadways.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Director of Information Services
CETC Managing Director

Information on Town Employment Opportunities can be found on our website www.draytonvalley.ca/ employment-opportunities

THANK YOU

To all in our amazing community for your continued support. From all of our hearts big and small at the Early Childhood Development Centre!

MAYOR
Glenn McLean • 780.514.5568
mayor@draytonvalley.ca

COUNCILLOR
Nicole Nadeau • 780.514.5864
nnadeau@draytonvalley.ca

COUNCILLOR
Graham Long • 780.898.5494
glong@draytonvalley.ca

COUNCILLOR
Dean Shular • 780.515.0110
dshular@draytonvalley.ca

COUNCILLOR
Fayrell Wheeler • 780.898.3655
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Debra Bossert • 780.514.0868
dbossert@draytonvalley.ca

COUNCILLOR
Brandy Fredrickson • 780.898.1541
bfredrickson@draytonvalley.ca

NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
Wed. January 6, 2015
Council Chambers, Town Office • 9:00 am

NEXT GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES MEETING
Wed. January 6, 2015
Town Office - 1:00 pm

TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

currently has the following vacancies:

MEMBER AT LARGE POSITIONS

If you have an interest in traffic safety within the community and are available to attend meetings approximately four times a year, ***please submit your application via email to: bylaw@draytonvalley.ca by January 31, 2016***

Committee application forms and the terms of reference can be found on the Town website or can be picked up at the Town office.

News

Nadeau to sit on a provincial committee

Mamta Lulla
Western Review

Drayton Valley Town Coun. Nicole Nadeau will be part of an upcoming provincial committee.

The committee will work with the upcoming Status of Women department that is still in the process of coming together with the Alberta government.

The committee that will comprise of about six members along with Nadeau from different parts of the province will provide recommendations to the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) board.

"I am excited and proud, I have been doing this job for about eight and a half years and you hope you make a difference at the end of the day and I guess that was witnessed so that's exciting. It's something that's important to me," said Nadeau.

Some of the mandates for the committee include increasing women's economic security and prosperity, encourag- ' women's leadership and democratic participation and ending violence against women and girls.

"We will be working with the ministers and the department of Status of Women. This is a new ministry in the province and the Environment Minister is actually the Minister of Status of Women as well," said Nadeau.

How did Nadeau get picked? She believes it must have to do with a past committee she represented along with other roles she has played in the community.

"AUMA used to have a committee and I sat on it and it was about women in government and it was designed about reducing barriers and then it evolved into a committee promoting education through elected officials," she said.

As an elected official Nadeau believes it's her job to make sure everyone has a voice at the table and that everyone is represented.

"I have always felt that it's my responsibility as a female elected official to pave the wave for other women or men to see that they are invited to the table to have a voice," she said.

Nadeau said Drayton Valley and Brazeau County councils are dynamic representing both men and women, but that isn't the case everywhere giving Edmonton as an example that only has one female councillor.

"Does that really give a good reflection of the community? No it doesn't. You need different voices around the table. So there's still an important role to play," she said.

Nadeau said the questions and conversations need to change to build a country that is inclusive of everyone. She gave an example of when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his ministers were being sworn in and the question was, 'Why did Trudeau want a gender-based cabinet?'

"He said because its 2015. And a lot of people were like that was a great answer and a lot of people were like that's a terrible answer and I said why should it even be a question? That's where I am coming from. It shouldn't even be a question. It should just be people representing Canada in all races, in all genders, in all age groups because that's what Canada is about," she said.

Her role in the provincial committee is unpaid and AUMA will be covering any costs incurred by Nadeau such as mileage.

She said there will be three meetings in Edmonton and teleconferences and research and reading with a potential term of a year.

Mamta Lulla Western Review

(From left) Volunteer Brenda Reich, administrative assistant with the Drayton Valley and District Community Learning Association Mandy Cain, volunteers Anita Schultz and Tanis Miller were seen gift wrapping at the Drayton Valley Municipal Library last week.

Gift wrapping service to raise funds for adult literacy programs

Jocelyne Woodcock
Western Review

The Drayton Valley and District Community Learning Association is holding a Christmas gift wrapping fundraiser from Dec. 8 to 23 at the Drayton Valley Municipal Library. The fundraiser runs from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

"It is the first year that we have done it. We decided that there was not a service in town for wrapping gifts so we decided to hold this fundraiser with our volunteers to come and wrap the gifts for us," said Nicole Sharman, executive director for the association. "We got some supplies donated to us and all of the money goes to the benefit of adult literacy programs in the community."

Anyone wanting to have a gift wrapped can give a donation to the association. The money raised from this initiative will go towards programs that include helping adults how to read and write.

"We have our adult literacy programs help learners with English as their second language," Sharman said. "We also have adults that need help reading, writing, and getting their high school diplomas so we help tutor for all of that."

Sharman encourages everyone in the community to support the Christmas gift wrapping fundraiser. Anyone interested can drop off the items that need wrapping and can pick them up on the same day.

"This is for everybody. Anybody who does not like wrapping gifts, who is short on time, who does not want to buy supplies or just feels like they could support our program and also get a benefit themselves," she said. "There is not a suggested amount but people are normally fairly generous. They understand the time that goes into it and the cost of the materials and they get some beautiful presents wrapped in exchange."

Volunteers are also needed to help out with the fundraiser. Anyone interested in volunteering can call (780) 542-3373.

"We have a couple of spots left for the volunteers and that is mostly on Dec. 22 and 23 during the day," Sharman said.

After the fundraiser is over, Sharman said she would like to hear feedback from the community.

"Since this is the first year we have done it, we are looking for feedback from the community," she said. "If it is a good service to have, if the location is convenient, if the time is convenient, and just general feedback about it so that when we do it again, we can make it even better."

Need to get something off your chest?
E-mail letters to the editor to cathy.weetman@sunmedia.ca

Mark Smith, MLA
Drayton Valley-Devon

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Drayton Valley, AB
T7A 1S5
Phone: (780) 542-5555
Fax: (780) 542-5551

Satellite Office
Office 82 - Unit #1 Robson Place
8 Columbia Avenue W.
Devon, AB
T9G 1Y6
Phone: (780) 987-3600

www.assembly.ab.ca draytonvalley.devon@assembly.ab.ca

DRAYTON VALLEY PHOTO RADAR NOTICE

TRAFFIC LAWS PHOTO ENFORCED

Public Notice – Photo Enforcement

Red Light & Stop Sign Violations
Warning ticket will be issued
December 15, 2015 to
January 15, 2016
With real tickets beginning the
week of January 17, 2016.

If you have any questions
regarding this program
please call 1-877-998-4327

This month Photo radar will be at the following locations:

- Highway 22
- 43 Street
- 50 Street
- 42 Avenue
- 43 Avenue
- 45 Avenue
- 46 Avenue
- 47 Avenue
- 49 Avenue
- 50 Avenue
- 55 Avenue
- Beckett Road
- Madsen Avenue

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!!

Brazeau County News

www.brazeau.ab.ca | 780-542-7777

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO CONSIDER THE AMENDMENT TO BYLAW 727-10 - SOUTH ROCKY RAPIDS AREA STRUCTURE PLAN

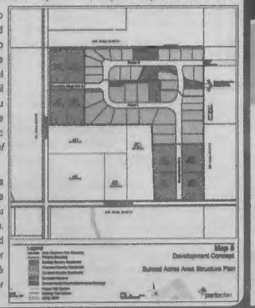
The South Rocky Rapids Area Structure Plan (ASP) is located adjacent to the Town of Drayton Valley's north boundary, to the north of Township Road 494 and the east of Range Road 73. The proposal is to add Appendix A [known as the Sunset Acres Neighbourhood Area Structure Plan (NASP)] to the South Rocky Rapids ASP. The purpose of the Sunset Acres NASP is to provide a framework for the future land uses, transportation, public realm and servicing network needed to support future development on part of SW 27-49-7-W5M (approx. 42.5 ha (105 acres)).

TAKE NOTICE that Brazeau County Council has given first reading to Bylaw 882-15 to amend the South Rocky Rapids ASP (Bylaw 727-10), as shown on the accompanying map. If adopted, the applicant intends to proceed with a subdivision application on SW 27-49-7-W5M.

FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that Brazeau County Council will hold a Public Hearing at which any person claiming to be effected by the proposed ASP or NASP may ask questions or make their views known. **The Public Hearing will be held on January 19, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.** or as soon thereafter as possible in the Council Chamber of Brazeau County office at 7401 Township Road 494, Drayton Valley, Alberta, T7A 1R1.

Any written submission mailed or delivered to Brazeau County, Box 77, 7401 Township Road 494, Drayton Valley, Alberta, T7A 1R1 or faxed to 780-542-7770 by 4:30 p.m., January 5, 2016, will be included in the Council Report. Written and oral submissions may also be made at the Council meeting without prior notification to Brazeau County. If you make a written submission, the information you provide may be made public subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

A copy of Bylaw 882-15, the South Rocky Rapids ASP, and the draft Sunset Acres NASP are available for public inspection at the Brazeau County Office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and on our website at www.brazeau.ab.ca. For further information, please contact Planning & Development by telephone at (780) 542-2667 or by e-mail at planning@brazeau.ab.ca.



UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS

- December 16 - Agricultural Service Board Meeting, Public input is at 11 a.m. Held in the Buck Creek Meeting Room at County Office.
- December 17 - Land Use Bylaw Review Meeting starting at 9 a.m. in Council Chamber
- December 24 – Office Closed (Christmas Eve)
- December 25 - Office Closed. (Christmas Day)
- December 28 – Office Closed (Day in lieu of Boxing Day)
- Information about Brazeau County employment opportunities can be found in the employment section on our website, www.brazeau.ab.ca/departments/administration/employment.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR BRAZEAU COUNTY ISSUED THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENT PERMIT(S) WITH CONDITIONS:

File:	15D-173
Proposal:	Home occupation, medium – discretionary use with variance to gross floor area
Location:	Lot 8 Block 1 Plan 102 0663 within SW 27-49-7 W5M (Lot 8 49413 RR 73, Sunset Acres)
Date:	Issued December 2, 2015 (with conditions)
File:	15D-176
Proposal:	Accessory (detached garage) – variance to allow in front yard
Location:	Lot 2 Block 2 Plan 789 1499 within NW 8-50-7 W5M (Lot 201 50119 RR 75, Beaver Estates)
Date:	Issued December 2, 2015 (with conditions)

Written notice of an appeal against a decision of the Development Authority, containing reasons for the appeal, and a $250.00 appeal fee must be received by the Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, either by hand or registered mail, at the Offices of Brazeau County no later than 14 days after the date of newspaper publication.

For further information, please contact the Planning and Development Department at: 780-542-2667.

News

Norquest College president earns accolade

NorQuest College is pleased to announce that president and CEO Dr. Jodi L. Abbott has been named a Women's Executive Network (WXN) 2015 Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Award Winner.Launched in 2003, the Top 100 Awards celebrate the incredible accomplishments of Canada's top female executive talent as well as their organizations and networks. Jodi, who will receive the Sun Life Financial Trailblazers & Trendsetters Award for women who are either the first in their field or have made a major impact on it, will be honoured during a gala celebration at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on November 26.

Dr. Abbott joined NorQuest as president and CEO in 2010 and has had a profound impact on the college and the greater Edmonton community. Initiatives during her tenure include: helping the college to increase enrolment; the development of programming consistent with the needs of employers; launching initiatives that have improved profitability and efficiency for business and industry; increasing career opportunities for the underemployed with resources such as the Alberta Aboriginal Construction Careers Centre; and increasing education opportunities for thousands of additional students thanks to the college's new campus addition, the Singhmar Centre for Learning.

As a proud supporter of women in leadership, NorQuest College works to create the necessary conditions and opportunities for women like Dr. Abbott to help them thrive and succeed within the post-secondary education sector.

"Over 70 per cent of NorQuest students are female," says Abbott. "This award is a tribute to the many women who are working to provide better lives for themselves and their families through the strength of a NorQuest College education."

Since 2010, NorQuest College has increased the number of women in its executive ranks by 50 per cent and has put a number of initiatives in place to help enhance opportunities for women. This includes the 1000 Women: A Million Possibilities movement, which is raising money for a childcare centre on campus. The college has also been a longtime leader in helping new Canadian students, many of whom are women, create pathways to employment and careers through education.

Dr. Jodi Abbott

The Top 100 Awards serve to recognize talented leaders in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors and to inspire the current and next generation to push the boundaries of what's possible.

"For these highly accomplished women, receiving a Top 100 Award means much more than recognition or a chance to share the spotlight with other remarkable Winners, it's an opportunity to pay it forward," says WXN founder, Pamela Jeffery. "WXN Top 100 Award Winners are powerful women both in their careers and their potential to transcend boundaries to have a greater impact on the communities around them."

Dr. Abbott joins a prestigious community of past Award Winners, including Canada's most iconic women trailblazers: Margaret Atwood, best-selling author; Dr. Roberta Bondar, astronaut; Arlene Dickinson, chief executive officer, Venture Communications; Christine Magee, president, Sleep Country Canada; Michaëlle Jean, former Governor General of Heather Reisman, founder and chief executive officer, Indigo Books & Music; and, Kathleen Taylor, chair of the board, Royal Bank of Canada.

About Dr. Jodi L. Abbott, ICD.D

Since joining the college in 2010 following a long career in health care, Dr. Abbott has grown NorQuest's credit and non-credit programming; unveiled innovative new partnerships like the Landmark Group Centre for Value Improvement, the Edmonton Officers Community Foundation Hospitality Institute, and the Alberta Aboriginal Construction Career Centres; enhanced NorQuest's brand recognition; and securing funding and initiating construction, of the college's biggest campus expansion project in over 40 years, the Singhmar Centre for Learning. Dr. Abbott is also a board director with the Sinneave Foundation and a member of the World Presidents' Organization. In addition, she has a longstanding involvement in the figure skating world, including as an Olympic judge in 2010 and 2014, and as a current board director with Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut. In 2011, Dr. Abbott was included in the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport and Physical Activity's list of Canada's top 20 most influential women in sport. She is also a two-time recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her significant local, provincial, and national contributions in sport and post-secondary education.

Body of man found on Boulder mountain may be missing Drayton snowmobiler

Story courtesy of Revelstoke Review

The body of a man was found on Boulder Mountain near Revelstoke Thursday afternoon, police announced, but they have yet to confirm it is that of missing snowmobiler Travis Allen Brown of Drayton Valley.

Police say they were advised that snowmobilers out riding Thursday found a deceased male on a remote, rugged area of Boulder Mountain at around 2 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10.

RCMP, Revelstoke Search & Rescue and the Revelstoke Snowmobile Club travelled to the scene after a report of the discovery to confirm the man's identity and recover the body.

The discovery comes the day after the search for Brown was suspended. He was reported missing Monday morning after he failed to return home from a solo snowmobiling trip to Revelstoke on the weekend.

The identity of the man has not been released, but unconfirmed reports on social media indicate that it was Brown's body that was found on the mountain.

The death is being investigated by the RCMP and the BC Coroners Service.

Revelstoke Search & Rescue spent three days searching the area by ground and in the air with no success. Boulder Mountain was closed to snowmobilers on Tuesday while SAR attempted to detected Brown's transceiver.

The search was suspended Wednesday afternoon and the mountain was re-opened to snowmobilers the next day. Revelstoke RCMP and search and rescue teams had been looking for Brown after he failed to return from a solo snowmobiling trip near Revelstoke, B.C. more than a week ago.

RCMP Cpl. Thomas Blakney says repeated efforts to reach Brown had failed and he was declared missing Monday morning.

The family of Brown, 42, said they last heard from him on December 5. The next day his red Dodge Ram pickup truck was found in a parking lot near Boulder Mountain just west of Revelstoke.

Photo supplied
Travis Brown from Drayton Valley was reported missing in British Columbia.

LETTERS POLICY

To be considered for publication, letters to the editor must include the full name of the author for print and an address and phone number for verification.

Letters may be edited for length, content, grammar, spelling and libel.

We will not print anonymous letters. As a local newspaper we focus on local events and our letters section is reserved for residents in our readership area.

Letters can be e-mailed to dvwr@sunmedia.ca. or dropped off at our office during business hours.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
FACULTY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

On behalf of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta, we wish to extend this note of thanks to the physicians and other health professionals in rural communities who have supported the education of our medical learners throughout the past year. Despite healthcare challenges faced throughout rural and regional Alberta, these teams continue to rise to the challenge of supporting their communities and looking toward the future.

Their dedication is greatly appreciated.

We also extend our gratitude to the community as a whole, who welcomes these learners and exposes them to the richness of rural life. Without your kindness and acceptance, our learners would not have received as memorable an experience.

Thank you for supporting our future physicians!

THE OFFICE OF RURAL & REGIONAL HEALTH
2-115 ECHA, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA T6G 1C9
TOLL FREE: 1-866-492-0678

randrh@ualberta.ca

News

Property taxes will go up

Mawrla Leslie
Western Review

The Town of Drayton Valley passed an interim budget for 2016 at the town council meeting on Dec. 9, raising property taxes for businesses and residents by 2.75 per cent, calculated to be about $67 per year for an average household.

Mayor Glenn McLean said this is one of the most extensive budget processes that the council has gone through.

There would be about a 3.5 per cent increase in monthly water bills for the average consumer and about the same increase for users of town facilities and programs.

A combined Total Works Fitness Centre and Park Valley Pool pass will see a decrease in fees from 2015 ranging from different numbers for students, adults and families.

The parent fees for the Early Childhood Development Centre will increase an average of four per cent in September of 2016.

"I want to thank the community for their participation. What we have tried to arrive at is a budget that the community has said to us they can live with. It's comprised of some not very easy choices and some absolute necessities," said McLean.

Town administration noted that the budget is interim and therefore only a guide at this point and the final budget will be passed around April 2016.

The full budget process was a first for Coun. Brandy Fredrickson.

"Given the economic situation it needed spicy conversations in the boardroom to see where we can strike that balance between development and meeting those social needs and keeping taxes at a minimal increase," said Fredrickson.

Some of the capital projects for 2016 include a new fire truck, infrastructure upgrades, animal shelter, tourist information centre, outdoor rink, etc. One of the projects is also the Ring Road connection to 50 St. and 50 St. south improvements.

Most of the tax dollars will be spent on transportation totalling to about 26 per cent while recreation and culture will receive about 15 per cent of the share followed by public health and welfare with about 14 per cent.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE OFFICER

The Community Resource Officer position moves forward by the town with one councillor not on board.

Coun. Dean Shular was concerned how the cost-sharing agreement between the town, Brazeau County and Wild Rose School Division will play out in the long term such as at the conclusion of the agreement, or if one party terminates the contract early or if the costs for the position increase overtime.

"If the agreement is for whatever reason terminated early, the concern raised is we are left with an additional officer and therefore our costs as a municipality increase," said Mayor Glenn McLean.

Coun. Graham Long agreed he shared the same concerns as well but the council had to make a decision on Dec. 9.

"Should we not approve this tonight, we will not see this position for several months," said Fire Chief Tom Thomson, who was filling in to answer questions in the absence of Assistant Town Manager Nesen Naidoo.

Shular explained he was concerned with the increase in costs when the Drayton Valley RCMP has a new building, and the cost for maintaining the position go up.

McLean said should there be an increase in cost with the new detachment, there would be an agreement made at that time and therefore dealt with it then.

A motion was passed to move forward with the three-year Community Resource Officer position that was carried, with one opposing vote by Shular.

PASSING THE BUCK

Photo submitted
Residents John Tkachuck (c) and his wife Candace (not in photo) donated $1000.00 to the Drayton Valley/Brazeau County Outdoor Rink recently.

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Brazeau County News
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CITIZEN APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Brazeau County annually appoints County residents to serve as members-at-large on various boards and committees. Prior to annual appointments Council invites interested County residents to express their interest in serving on the following. Appointments are subject to annual renewals. Attendance at meetings is a requirement for appointment.

Eligibility: Members at large must be:
- i) Canadian citizen;
- ii) A minimum of 18 years of age at the time of application;
- iii) A resident of Brazeau County – loss of residency renounces one's appointment immediately and the member at large must submit his or her resignation to the committee as soon as practicable;
- iv) Notwithstanding (iii) Council reserves the right to approve a committee terms of Reference that at the discretion of Council may vary the requirement for a member at large to be a Brazeau County resident.

PEST AND WEED APPEALS COMMITTEE

A three-member committee consisting of three members-at-large to hear appeals against notices issued under the Weed Control Act. The committee meets infrequently and only as required.

COMPOSITE ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD

A three member board consisting of one provincial member and 2 other members who are not provincial members. This board will hear complaints about assessments for all property in the municipality, excluding residential properties with three or less dwelling units, farm land, linear property and equalized assessment. There is a mandatory 3-day training session required for this board. The board meets infrequently and only as required.

LOCAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD

A three member board consisting of 3 members who are not provincial members. This board will hear complaints about non-assessment matters and assessments of residential properties with three or less dwelling units and farm land. There is a mandatory 3-day training session required for this board. The board meets infrequently and only as required.

Residents seeking to participate in the above boards or committees must indicate their interest by submitting a completed application form available from the County office or the Brazeau County website (www.brazeau.ab.ca) to the undersigned by 5:00 pm., Friday, January 15, 2016.

Karen Robinson, Executive Assistant
Brazeau County
7401 Twp. Rd 494
Drayton Valley, Alberta
T7A 1R1
krobinson@brazeau.ab.ca

All applications submitted will be presented to Brazeau County Council for consideration at the regular Council meeting of January 19, 2016.

Comment

The Drayton Valley
Western Review
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Canada
POSTMEDIA

Our editorial

Drayton is suffering

Drayton Valley and area is suffering this Christmas.

Statistically speaking, there are some 100 homes in Drayton Valley that have been, or are undergoing, foreclosure due to a stagnant economy and massive layoffs in the oil and gas sector.

Recently, the Loonie plunged to an all-time low at 74 cents as did the price of oil, which is now selling for $37 a barrel.

The use of the local food bank is at an all-time high, according to its volunteers, and many of the local schools have started projects called wishing trees. The wishing trees are designed to help families in need this Christmas by supplying them with food, warm clothing and other items. Gently used clothing drives have begun in earnest, particularly for coats and mitts for families experiencing winter in Canada. So far, we have been very lucky the weather is warm and there's very little snow on the ground this year compared to last year's amount, but that could soon change.

For those people not working in the oil and gas industry, the farmers in the area have also been hit by the NDP's plans to introduce Bill 6, regulating safety in the farming sector. Since there has never been legislation introduced in Alberta over the past 40 some years, the government is bound to make mistakes (which it has already admitted to) while the powers that be are feeling their way around this massive piece of legislation. Hopefully, with enough input from all the stakeholders, this legislation should become fair and equitable for everybody. Maybe it just needs a little more time and attention.

One thing to keep in mind, however, is that not all communities are alike in this province nor have they the same needs. Some rely on oil and gas for their livelihood; others depend on the forestry industry and still others make their living raising livestock.

Drayton Valley and surrounding area residents have been hit hard this year, and local support services plus other organizations ranging from churches to soup kitchens are doing what they can to help families in need. By "pulling together" (as the town's motto states) this Christmas, we can all get through this together – one day at a time if need be.

Hopefully, next year we won't need to hear the wish of a little boy in the community who said he only wanted a tree for Christmas. Heartbreaking words indeed.

Need to get something off your chest?
E-mail letters to the editor to cathy.weetman@sunmedia.ca

Northern Lights, give me a peek

Mamta's Musings
Mamta Lulla

I have been trying to keep an eye out for the Northern Lights, which I am told are often visible from the Drayton Valley area at nights. But I have had no luck so far.

Earlier this year, when I was planning to take off for a week or so, I had Alaska and New York as options. Eventually, New York worked out. At that time I felt better knowing that I still have a shot at looking at the Northern Lights from here and I don't have to go to Alaska for them.

That was in September. Here I am in December, and I still haven't seen the Aurora Borealis yet.

Of course, I see pictures of people who see them in the area. In fact some of these people send pictures to us at the Western Review. This is when I sit at my desk, look at these pictures and mutter under my breath. Not because I am not happy for all you folks who get to see them, but because I keep missing out!

I know one of my problems is because I live in town, right in the heart of it with street lights all around me, not to mention one light right outside my deck. I would probably have a better shot had I been living in the county.

And like all those around me, I found a hack. Instead of staring up every night, I found apps on my phone. I have downloaded all the Aurora forecast/notifying apps that count the index and let you know if there is a chance you can see the lights. I believe, I have three apps slowing down my aging phone and I still get nothing.

I have also asked people to call and text me if they see these beautiful lights and wake me up and I have gone as far as promising them I won't curse loudly for waking me up in the middle of the night.

Witnessing these lights is one thing on my list for this winter. That and try not to complain about the winter and enjoy the snow, which I really do when I am home. Remember the major snow storm we had a couple weekends ago? I took peace in that storm. I was at my deck for hours looking at every snow flake I could catch my eyes on. So far, the temperatures have been mild and I am enjoying that too. I will put in my best to keep liking the snow and cherish this winter.

But I have yet to see these lights.

Come on you fascinating lights, you are on my Christmas list. I have been a good girl all year long. It is time for my Christmas present. Come and show me your brilliance. Let me get a glimpse of you. I promise to remember you for a long, long time.

Opinion

Let's give the holiday a new name

Cathy's Comments
Cathy Weetman

With Hanukkah beginning and Christmas nearly two weeks away, several people I know and have known just cannot get into the holiday spirit.

It may be because these people have had several bad experiences at previous Christmas times as children, loved ones may have passed away at that time of year, or maybe they can't afford it if people lost their jobs because of a slow down in the energy sector.

I'm not a Pollyanna (well, maybe I am) but I feel sad when the spirit of Christmas has died in these people, and no amount of egg nog, Christmas songs or Christmas lights will cheer them up. In fact, I feel down right helpless as to what to say to them or how to comfort them. "Come on, cheer up, it's Christmas," has been met several times with icy stares by my own relatives, so I've stopped saying that.

Maybe this loss of wonder and warmth at Christmas time will come back to these individuals in time, at least I hope so. In Charles Dicken's A Christmas Carol, even Ebeneezer Scrooge had a change of heart (granted, after being scared out of his wits by three ghosts), and kept Christmas in his heart all year long. And even the Grinch had a change in attitude and his heart grew two sizes in one day.

If these people cannot cheer up, maybe we should declare a new Christmas holiday – Christmiss – and let it go at that – at least for this year.

Intentions versus outcomes

There are times when the outcomes fall well short of intentions that people are anticipating. How they react to those shortcomings speaks volumes about their ability to adapt. Governments are often victims of failed or flawed ideologies that result in varying degrees of shortcomings; they too must have the ability to adapt.

Government decisions that have created substantial barriers to building new pipelines are the continuation of policies that result in a higher risk method of transportation. The unintended consequence of shipping crude oil by rail is the substantially higher risk factor and a substantially higher carbon footprint that goes along with that.

It is 4.5 times safer to move oil and gas by pipeline than it is to move the same volume the same distance by rail in Canada according to a study released this past summer by the Fraser Institute. The study conclusions are based on data compiled over a decade from the Canadian Transportation Safety Board and Transport Canada.

New regulations in North America are mandating that the DOT-111s railcars that were at the centre of the Lac-Mégantic be replaced. The DOT-111s railcars that were at the centre of one of the worst derailments in Canadian history, that resulted in the deaths of 47 people and destroyed half of their downtown area, must be replaced with a safer version by May of 2017. This does little to deal with the human error that was ultimately determined to be the cause of the disaster.

The fleet of designated crude oil transportation railcars in North America is estimated to be 87,500 by the end of 2015, which will bear a huge capital cost to rail companies to upgrade the entire fleet. The cost will be passed on to you, the consumer, as the cost of transportation rises accordingly.

The reported reasoning behind the rejection of the Keystone pipeline application claims it was done for environmental protection reasons. That was the intent, however, the data tells a different story. The U.S. State department's own environmental impact study shows that emissions are 40% higher moving oil by rail as opposed to pipeline.

Along with an increase in emissions the State Department's study found that costs are substantially higher (three times) with rail transportation versus pipelines. These additional costs associated with the rejection of pipelines are a major contributor as to whether projects are economically viable, and that directly translates into unemployment numbers.

The intentions of those that oppose the building of more cost-efficient and environmentally safer pipelines have not been bolstered by the undesired outcomes based on the actual data.

Regardless of how genuine the intentions are, sometimes the outcomes can have unintended but overshadowing consequences.

Alberta's Premier has fundamentally opposed the approval and construction of pipelines based on environmentally ideological beliefs that just don't deliver the desired results of her intentions. The data also shows time and again that the outcomes of shipping by rail will have a far worse impact on the environment versus those of a pipeline.

Even with good intentions by the Premier, it will be an all around appalling outcome for Albertans.

The above article was co-compiled by a small group of Official Opposition MLAs whom each week get together to talk through a legislative policy issue.

Letter to the editor

Thanks from the Drayton Valley Food Bank!

Dear Editor,

We would like to say THANKS! to our community for the tremendous support that you have given to the food bank this fall. Individuals and corporations have been incredibly generous with donations of both food and money.

There is a lot of need in our community, and usage of the food bank remains high. All of the people who work at the food bank are volunteers, and your donations have enabled us to continue to help out those in need. We are open on Monday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Thanks to Everyone.
Ron Cameron
Drayton Valley

LETTERS POLICY

To be considered for publication, letters to the editor must include the full name of the author for print and an address and phone number for verification.

Letters may be edited for length, content, grammar, spelling and libel.

We will not print anonymous letters. As a local newspaper we focus on local events and our letters section is reserved for residents in our readership area.

Letters can be e-mailed to cathy.weetman@sunmedia.ca. or dropped off at our office during business hours.

A.C.R.
MAKE ALL CHOICE YOUR FIRST CHOICE
For the remainder of December, bring in a non-perishable food item for the food bank and receive 15% off your equipment rental!
Holiday Hours:
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News

Fire department reminds the public to not drink and drive

Jessica Kimmett
Western Review

The Drayton Valley/Brazeau County Fire Services would like to remind the public that drinking and driving is against the law and would also like members of the community to be responsible this holiday season.

According to Alberta Transportation, the most likely time for collisions is between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m. Statistics also show that from 2009 to 2014, there was a total of 42,913 criminal convictions for impaired driving in Alberta.

The minimum sentences for anyone caught drinking and driving are the following; first offence is $1,000 fine and 12 months driving suspension, second offence is 30 days in jail and 24 months driving suspension, and third offence is 120 days in jail and 36 months driving suspension.

Anyone wanting to go out to parties and drink should have a plan to get home safely. Some suggestions given by the fire department is to have a designated driver or call a cab.

FALSE ALARMS

The fire department received an alarm call from a residence on 4716 48 Avenue in Drayton Valley on Dec. 6 at 10:20 a.m. It turned out that the alarm was activated due to cooking. No further actions were required from the fire department.

On Dec. 6 at 11:02 p.m., the fire department received an alarm call from the Breton Health Centre. When fire crews arrived on scene, they did an extensive and comprehensive search inside and outside the building but nothing was found. It was deemed a false alarm.

MAN BURNING BRUSH PILES

A smoke investigation call was received by the fire department on Dec. 5. A caller reported that somebody was burning garbage in their neighbourhood. Fire crews responded and found out that the gentleman was burning brush piles and has a burn permit. According to the fire department, the brush piles were damp and wet which results in the fire being smoky. The man burning the brush piles was in full compliance of his permit.

FIRE UNDER A BRIDGE

On Dec. 4 at 10:09 p.m., fire crews responded to a call of an outside fire underneath a bridge on Highway 22. A stack of wooden pallets were found to be on fire as well as truck tracks were found on scene. Whoever started the fire was gone when fire crews arrived. Due to the difficulty to get to the area where the fire is located, fire crews waited for the fire to subside on its own.

TRUCK VERSUS DEER

Fire crews responded to a call of a truck hitting a deer on Dec. 4 at 7:30 a.m. The fire department helped EMS with patient care, stabilizing the vehicle, clearing road debris, and doing traffic control. No one was reported to be hurt but the driver was still taken to a hospital for precautionary measures.

Drayton Valley driver catches break from judge

Cathy Weetman
Western Review

A 19-year-old Drayton Valley driver caught a break from Judge John Haggerty in Provincial Court on December 8 when he gave him a $1500 fine and a $450 victim surcharge plus a driving prohibition for one year.

Court heard that RCMP responded to a single vehicle rollover on June 14th of this year, where they found a truck upside in a ditch and four occupants standing by the side of the road. Upon further investigation, all occupants confessed they had been drinking, with Brandon Pankewicz doing the driving.

In court, Pankewicz pleaded guilty to the charge of Impaired Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and when given an opportunity to speak, he said, "I'm really sorry for the fact that it happened, not that I got caught. I'll make sure it won't happen again. It's just lucky nobody was hurt."

Prior to sentencing, Judge Haggerty told Pankewicz, "Your accident had very bad consequences but it could have been so much worse. Anybody driving impaired is a potential killer."

For his actions, he was handed a $1500 fine and a $450 victime surcharge and was prohibited from driving for a year. After three months, he can apply for the Interlock program.

Obstructing a police officer nets man a $200 fine.

Lying to police is never a good thing, as Kevin Andre Derosiers found out in court.

When RCMP stopped him after he drove through a four-way stop near Rocky Rapids, Derosiers gave police officers a different name. When checked on the police computer, no such name existed on a licence. An employee with the company Desrosiers worked for later identified Desrosiers as the man driving the vehicle.

Crown Prosecutor Cecilia Martin noted that Desrosiers is presently supporting one child who resides in Quebec and suggested he receive a fine of $2000 plus a $60 victim surcharge, which the judge agreed to. He has until May 3, 2016 to pay them.

Two dead dogs found

Marnie Lulin
Western Review

Two deceased dogs were found near RR 83 by the RCMP after a complainant reported them on Dec. 6 in the afternoon.

RCMP members attended around 2:45 p.m. and found two dogs, one that looked like a Rottweiler while the other was a long-haired big black dog.

The two dogs had no collars or any defined features, said the police. They were partially eaten by animals and were frozen.

Complainant had reported that the dogs were shot but the police could not confirm that piece of information.

The investigation as to what happened continued as of last week.

FIREARMS STOLEN

On Dec. 12 around 11:15 a.m. the RCMP got a call from a resident on TWP Rd 514 about firearms being stolen.

A break-and-enter had occurred in his home and about six guns were stolen. About four were rifles and couple of shot guns from Browning and Remington brands.

The police are asking the public to come forward with any information they have regarding the case.

"Firearms that end up stolen fall to criminals' hands," said Sgt. Chris Delisle.

BREAK AND ENTER

On Dec. 5 around 1:30 p.m. the Drayton Valley RCMP members received a complaint about a break-and-enter that occurred the night before.

A male was caught by the residents while he was breaking into their home on 44 St. in Drayton Valley. No one was injured as the male ran away after being caught.

The RCMP could not locate the man, who is described to be a white male, in his early 20s and slim built, due to the time delay between the offence and the time of call.

The police are asking the public to call the police right away when incidents happen so they have a better chance of catching the criminals.

CABLE THEFT

RCMP members were notified of a ground cable theft worth $10,000 that was stolen from a rural site in Brazeau County. The cable belonged to a local energy company.

DEBIT MACHINE STOLEN

RCMP received a call on Dec. 3 around 8:20 a.m. about a debit machine theft at a local inn in Drayton Valley.

Need to get something off your chest?
Email letters to the editor to cathy.weetman@sunmedia.ca

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News

The Eagle: a Christmas wish

Peter Lee

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ringed with the azure world, he stands.
The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls.
- Lord Alfred Tennyson, 1809 - 1892

Bald eagles nest in the river valley in Eagle Point Provincial Park here in Brazeau County. They like to nest near water as they fish for food.

I saw one fishing in the North Saskatchewan River last summer. Graceful and beautiful, and like all wildlife, they live a purpose driven life.

The nest -- I have heard there is at least one nest is in our parks system -- is the largest of any bird in North America. It is used repeatedly over many years and with new material added each year may eventually be as large as 4 m deep, 2.5 m across and weigh 1 metric ton. Usually nests are used for under five years or so, as they either collapse in storms or break the branches supporting them by their sheer weight.

When they are old enough to breed, they often return to the area where they were born. They likely mate for life. To impress each other, males and females perform special courtship dances in the sky. The dance involves locking talons and cart-wheeling through the air.

Two to three white eggs are an average clutch size. Young eagles are called eaglets and are light grey and fluffy when they first hatch. Their feathers turn dark brown when they're about 12 weeks old and ready to leave the nest. The feathers on their heads and tails won't turn white until they're about four years old.

The average lifespan of bald eagles in the wild is around 20 years, with the oldest confirmed one having been 38 years of age.

Once a common sight in much of the continent, the bald eagle was severely affected in the mid-20th century by a variety of factors, among them the thinning of egg shells attributed to use of the pesticide DDT. It is estimated that in the early 18th century, the bald eagle population was 300,000-500,000, but by the 1950s there were only 412 nesting pairs in the US. Other factors in bald eagle population reductions were a widespread loss of suitable habitat, as well as both legal and illegal shooting. In 1930 a New York City ornithologist wrote that in the state of Alaska in the previous 12 years approximately 70,000 bald eagles had been shot. Many of the hunters killed the bald eagles under the long-held beliefs that bald eagles grabbed young lambs and even children with their talons, yet the birds were innocent of most of these alleged acts of predation (lamb predation is rare, human predation is thought to be non-existent). If fish are scarce, eagles don't usually go hungry and instead feast on rabbits, squirrels, birds and even young deer!

With hunting regulations in place and DDT banned, the eagle population rebounded. The bald eagle can be found in growing concentrations throughout the United States and Canada, particularly near large bodies of water. In Canada, British Columbia has the highest population of bald eagles at 20,000-30,000. Obtaining a precise count of bald eagles population is extremely difficult. Population density is low in Alberta and nests are vulnerable to human disturbance. Like all birds of prey in Alberta, the bald eagle is protected by the provincial Wildlife Act

The bald eagle is a sacred bird in some North American cultures and in many individuals, and its feathers, like those of the golden eagle, are central to many religious and spiritual customs among Indigenous Peoples. Eagles are considered spiritual messengers between gods and humans by some cultures.

The bald eagle isn't bald. The word "bald" actually comes from the word "piebald" which is used to describe something that is spotty or patchy. Adult eagles are dark brown and have white feathers covering their heads and tails. They also have hooked yellow beaks, large talons, and oversized feet equipped with small spikes, called spicules. Together, eagles use these body parts as their own type of fishing pole. Eagles also have a super sense of vision, allowing them to see four to seven times farther than humans.

The bald eagle is the only eagle exclusive to North America. Eagles are at the top of the food chain and have no natural enemies. When bald eagle populations dwindle, it's likely because humans have interfered with their natural habitat.

The bald eagle is one important harbinger of a healthy ecosystem, where humans respect wildlife.

We at the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Parks Council, have a Christmas wish for all the residents of the Brazeau and Drayton Valley region - We wish for you that eagles will always reside, and soar and fish in Eagle Point Provincial Park and that each of you gets to see one in the wild.

"The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. As longs as this exists, and it certainly always will, I know that then there will always be comfort for every sorrow, whatever the circumstances may be. And I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles."

- Anne Frank, The Diary of a Young Girl

(Peter Lee is the Executive Director of the Eagle Point and Blue Rapids Parks Council. Visit them online at www.epbr-parkscouncil.com)

SHARING WITH THE ECDC

Photo submitted

The children at the Early Childhood Development Centre (ECDC) are wishing the community a Merry Christmas. Many businesses have been stopping by and delivering products to the child care centre.

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Are you a concerned business or home owner and tired of thefts, vandalizm and other criminal activities in our community?
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Web - www.draytonvalleycop.com
Drayton Valley C.O.P.
Annual General Meeting
Dec. 15, 2015 - 7 PM - Nelson Brothers Ltd, Office
Members and general public welcome

News

A Jazzy Christmas concert held

Justine Kimoden
Western Review

The Drayton Valley Community Jazz Band and Valley Voices Community Choir performed at the Eleanor Pickup Arts Centre on Dec. 6 at 3 p.m. for A Jazzy Christmas concert.

"There was a selection of fun, toe-tapping, and some spiritual songs that put people in the Christmas spirit," said Valley Voices coordinator Jennifer Landers. "The choir sang seven songs and the band had 10 selections."

Although the Valley Voices Community Choir has been putting on a Christmas concert for 15 years now, this is the first time that the choir and band collaborated together.

"We worked very hard to put this together," said Landers. "There was a great selection of old and new favourites. (It was a way to) kick off the festive season and support local talent."

Justine Kimoden Western Review

A Jazzy Christmas Concert was held on Dec. 6 at the Eleanor Pickup Arts Centre. It was presented by the Drayton Valley Community Jazz Band and Valley Voices Community Choir.

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News

SNOWMAN LANE

Justine Kimoden Western Review

The Snowman Lane light up was held on Dec. 6 starting at 7 p.m. on 43 Street and 43A Street in Drayton Valley. There was live music, hot chocolate, donuts, bonfire, and a visit from two snowmen and Santa Claus.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: What is the best Christmas gift you could give your parents this year?

Shyla Gandey 10
Jewelry for my mom and a signed hockey puck for my dad.

Dawson Fast 10
I am making a sculpture for my dad and I want to buy my mom some jewelry.

Mackenzie Kaiser 10
To help out my brothers and do chores.

Rylen Watchorn 10
I would give my dad a car model. As for my mom, I would give her a guitar.

Evergreen Christmas Market
Saturday December 19th
10:00am-2:00pm
Omniplex Lobby & Curling Rink Lounge
Pictures with Santa, Free Hot Chocolate and Family Skate from 11:00am-1:30pm
Old Fashioned Horse Drawn Wagon Rides and carols
Sponsored by the Drayton Valley & District Agricultural Society

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B $59.95
O $19.95
Rocky Mountain House Nursery

News

SHAKIN' IN DRAYTON

Justine Kimoden Western Review

Humans Helping Humans Foundation held their Shakin' in Drayton fundraiser on Dec. 5 at the Mackenzie Centre. Hack Hamdon and Karen Hanson (upper left photo) bagged the Grand Champion title while Cory Nelson and Chelsea Euchner (bottom left photo) won two titles including Crowd Favourite and Best Technical Dancers.

HOLY TRINITY ACADEMY
DRAMA CLASS PRESENTS
An Evening of One Act Plays

Oh What A Tangled Web
BY JOHN R. CARROLL

But Listen!
BY SUSAN COTTRELL

Mirrors
JOHN O'BRIEN

Wednesday, December 16th, 6:00
Holy Trinity Academy Gymnasium

ADMISSION
Free admission to the evening's production for the Drayton Valley Food Bank sponsored by the staff and students of HTA

FEED THE HUNGRY

News

BUS HUB TRIAL

Mamta Lulla Western Review

A test run of buses took place on Dec. 11 at the new bus hub across from the Evergreen Elementary school. About 24 buses including some from Parkland County arrived early morning. Feedback from the trial run will be discussed at a board meeting on Dec. 15 outside of Drayton Valley. A question and answer session for the local community takes place in town at the Evergreen Elementary on Dec. 17.

685

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News

WORK HARD, EAT WELL

Brenda Luffa Western Review

HW Pickup School rewarded its honour students with breakfast on Dec. 9. Current term students from all grades: 7, 8 and 9 were invited to kick off their morning.

RCMP seek help with Alder Flats break in

Submitted by Breton RCMP

On Sunday, December 6, Seely's General Store in Alder Flats wa broken into and multiple items were stolen.

The trio of thieves arrived at the store at 3 a.m. driving a silver coloured Ford crew cab superduty pickup truck, all prepared to rip the ATM machine from the wall, only to find that no money was left in the machine overnight. Feeling defeated they decided to do a supermarket sweep and steal cases of pop, packages of beef jerky, multiple articles of camo coloured hunting clothing and pairs of sunglasses.

The door was smashed open with a sledge hammer and the thieves jumped through the window to gain access to the interior. They must not have been used to the physical work it took to break in as they felt the need to stock up on refreshments.

Somebody in the area knows who is responsible. Please contact us with any information pertaining to this or other crimes.

If you know who is responsible for this crime, please contact the Breton RCMP at 780-696-3520 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS or online at TipSubmit.com. If your tip leads to an arrest, you may qualifyfor a reward. Tips provided by telephone or internet are anonymous and secure.

Thorsby RCMP need public's assistance with mischief incidents

Submitted by Thorsyb RCMP

Thorsby RCMP are investigating a break and enter and Mischief that occurred between the afternoon of November 25 and the early morning of November 26.

The investigation has revealed that suspect(s) gained entry to the residence by using a vehicle to back into the rear garage door. The property is locted at 461041 RR 73 Alder Flats. Once entry was gained, the suspect(s) appeared to have consumed a large amount of liquor and then caused extensive damager to the interior of the residence. Numerous television and other household effects were taken.

If you have any information that could assist with this investigation, please contact Thorsby RCMP at 780-789-3951, ext. 222 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or www.crimestoppers.ab.ca.

Need to get something off your chest?
Email letters to the editor to cathy.weetman@sunmedia.ca

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The Drayton Valley Western Review

Sports

780-542-5380
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POSTMEDIA

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Thunder beats Crusaders

Justine Kitmanich Western Review

The Drayton Valley Thunder took on the Sherwood Park Crusaders on Dec. 5 at the Drayton Valley Omniplex. Thunder won the home game with a final score of 4-2.

A loss for the Wildcats

Justine Kitmanich Western Review

The Drayton Valley Wildcats lost against the Devon Barons with a final score of 9-4 at a home game on Dec. 5 held at the Drayton Valley Omniplex.

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Sports

Entwistle School's soccer team prepares for Polar Cup

Justin Kinsella
Staff Writer

The Entwistle Eagle soccer team will be competing at the Polar Cup in Edmonton from Dec. 27 to 29. The Polar Cup is the largest indoor soccer tournament in western Canada and over 300 teams from Alberta, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and event northwest United States will be competing at the event.

Les Worthington, Entwistle principal and Eagle soccer team coach, said the team is excited to be competing at the Polar Cup for the second time. The team will be playing at the U-14 level.

"When we went to the Polar Cup last year, none of the kids had ever played a game of indoor soccer before. This year, I got a few that have played a bit," Worthington said. "It is just about experience. They kids are looking forward to it, they are excited and their parents are excited."

The team squeezes in soccer practice during lunch breaks to prepare for the Polar Cup.

"We practice two lunch hours a week in our gym and then our kids out here they play a lot of soccer outside at recess," Worthington said.

Being a team member of the Entwistle Eagle soccer team is an opportunity for students to get active.

"These kids they love soccer. So one of our jobs as school people is to provide kids with opportunities like this," Worthington said. "These kids they are going to be coming over Christmas break to do an activity because they wanted an experience. They are not worried about what the score board is going to say. They just want to play and maybe it means that it in high school, they play in their high school soccer team. Maybe it means that later on in life, they get their kids into soccer or maybe it means that they are just more active people."

Ford Drills and Skills is back on its fourth year

Justine Rhoden
Reliable Source

Novice, atom, and peewee hockey teams in Drayton Valley can apply to be a part of Ford Drills and Skills which will give young hockey players a chance to train at Rexall Place in Edmonton on March 6, 2016. Aside from training at Rexall Place, the 14 selected minor hockey teams will be practising yoga and learning more about nutrition. There will also be a meet and greet by an Edmonton Oiler.

"It is a program that works to encourage minor hockey teams to make real contributions to their communities because being a pro on the ice starts with what you do off the ice," said Ford of Canada Western Region general manager Gerald Wood. "The 14 teams of young hockey players with the highest number of online votes between Feb. 1 to 15, 2016 will experience what it is like to train like an Oiler for a day at Rexall Place."

This is the fourth Ford Drills and Skills and Wood said previous years' Drills and Skills were a success.

"The Drills and Skills program has been a tremendous success. Many teams have donated food to local food banks, raised money for local hospitals, shovelled walkways for seniors, and helped do maintenance on local rinks," he said. "Additionally, the actual day of training is a wonderful experience for all involved. It encourages teams to get out and make a positive contribution to their community. It is also a once in a lifetime experience for 280 Alberta youths."

In the last Ford Drills and Skills held in February 2015, the Drayton Valley Arc Aces joined the program and received 20 tickets to see an Edmonton Oilers game for being one of the early registrants for the program.

A team coach, manager, or parent can sign up a minor hockey team online at www.oilers.for/drillsandskills.ca by Jan. 31, 2016. Online voting begins Feb. 1, 2016 and ends Feb. 15, 2016.

How to stay hydrated for winter sports

Brea Cassie

(NC) Winter sports from skating to skiing or even shoveling the driveway are part of the quintessential Canadian experience. One of the most neglected, yet crucial aspect of winter activity is hydration. While we typically associate hydration with the balmy days of summer, when the heat is reminding us of our thirst, not staying properly hydrated regardless of the time of year can make your heart work harder, decrease energy levels and make you feel weaker.

If you want to optimize your winter workouts check out these tips for proper cold weather hydration:

Set a water goal

Pay attention to signs and symptoms of dehydration and inadequate liquid consumption. If you're experiencing headaches, muscle cramping, or fatigue, it could be a sign that your body needs more fluid. Grab of bottle of water, or any other beverage like tea or juice to stay hydrated.

Match your drink to your activity

The Canadian Beverage Association suggests aligning your drink selection with your activity level and caloric needs. If you're exercising for an extended period of time, look for options that will keep your body fueled at peak performance. Science shows that the water, carbohydrates and electrolytes in sports drinks provide significant hydration and athletic performance benefits for active individuals. Look for front-of-package caloric labelling and low- and no- calorie beverages for smart hydration choices.

Opt for warm beverages

Just the thought of an ice cold glass of water can send chills down our spine during the winter months. Try warming up with a thermos of hot water with lemon or green tea. Not only are these great hydrating options, but calorie-free too.

The beverage industry has set a goal through their Balance Calories initiative to reduce non-alcoholic beverage calories consumed per person nationally by 20 per cent by 2025. More information is available at www.balancecalories.ca.

www.newscanada.com

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Sports

Ringette teams win gold

Photo submitted
Pictured is the U19 ringette team from Drayton Valley, who won a gold medal at the Ring in the Valley tournament held November 20, 21 and 22.

Photo submitted
Pictured is the U 14 ringette team from Drayton Valley who also won a gold medal at the Ring in the Valley tournament.

From November 20 to 22, some 18 ringette teams from all over the province gathered at Drayton Valley's Omniplex to take part in the annual Ring in the Valley tournament. As well as hosting the event, the U14 and U19 teams took home gold medals for their efforts.

Got a news or sports tip?
Call the Western Review editorial department at 780-542-5380

Need to get something off your chest?
E-mail letters to the editor to dvwr@sunmedia.ca

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS & DEADLINES
DEADLINES:
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29 ISSUE
Deadline: Tuesday, December 22 at 4:00 pm
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5 ISSUE
Deadline: Tuesday, December 29 at 4:00 pm
OFFICE HOURS:
Monday, Dec. 21 – 8:30-4:30 pm
Tuesday, Dec. 22 – 8:30-4:30 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 23 – 8:30-4:30 pm
Thursday, Dec. 24 – 8:30-12:00 pm
Friday, Dec. 25 – CLOSED
Monday, Dec. 28 – 8:30-4:30 pm
Tuesday, Dec. 29 – 8:30-4:30 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 30 – 8:30-4:30 pm
Thursday, Dec. 31 – 8:30-12:00 pm
Friday, Jan. 1 – CLOSED
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News

First ever Constituency Cup at Frank Maddock

Western Review

The First Annual Basketball Constituency Cup was organized recently at the Frank Maddock High School and was attended by various schools in the area along with a school from Pigeon Lake.

"I got thinking about how I could meld my career as a teacher/coach together with my new political career and this was the idea I came up with," said Drayton Valley-Devon MLA Mark Smith who came up with the tournament idea and approached Frank Maddock High School.

Four girls' teams and three boys' teams were part of the tournament from Holy Trinity Academy, Frank Maddock High School, Breton High School and a local school from Pigeon Lake. The winners of the tournament were Frank Maddock Boys team and the Breton Girls High team.

Smith is a former teacher and a coach himself and he said money from coaching extracurricular sports was hard to come by as he stopped coaching so he wanted to find businesses that would underwrite the costs of tournaments so he would be able to invite schools in his constituency and there wouldn't be an entry fee.

"This would allow students to get one more tournament in and because it was so early in the year teams wouldn't have committed to anything else," said Smith.

One of the boys basketball team coaches at Frank Maddock High School Grayson Lynch said he was thankful to Smith and his staff who helped put the tournament together.

"He and his office took on the organizational stuff, the thing with the basketball tournament is not the tournament day itself, it's all the emails involved leading up to it and sending them to schools and getting people to schedule and they did all of that," said Lynch.

He explained sometimes the cost to schools for a tournament is an obstacle.

"There was no fee for the schools that participated so it was a really great way for basketball teams in the region to get a start to the season, to have some stress free games without having to worry about organizational stuff and cost and get out and play basketball," said Lynch.

Two boys basketball teams play against each other as part of the first annual Basketball Constituency Cup that was organized at the Frank Maddock High School recently.

Got a news tip?

Call the Western Review editorial department at 780 514 5380

Farm and ranch families spoke.

We're listening.

The Government of Alberta has amended Bill 6 to respond to farm families' concerns.

Amendments to the *Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act* will assure farming families of their ability to pass on traditions to their kids, the next generation of producers. That's how this province was built.

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- neighbours who volunteer to help each other out.

The new *Act* will reflect legislation in other provinces that:

- protects the safety of waged workers and helps prevent workplace injuries and
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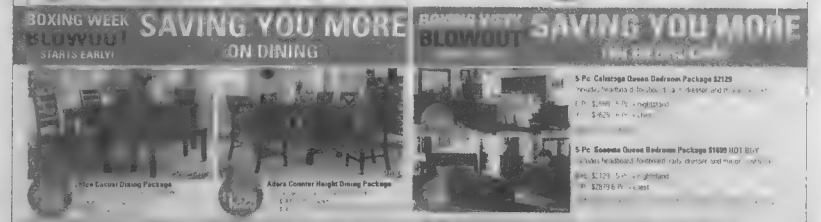
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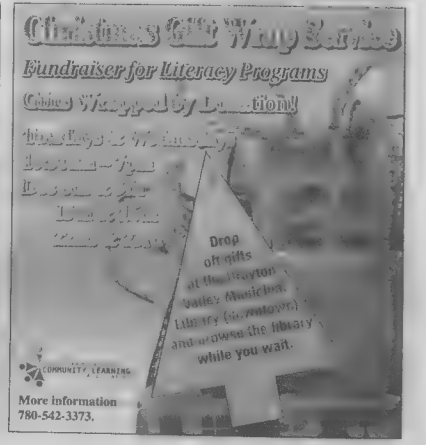
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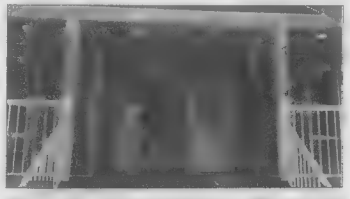
News

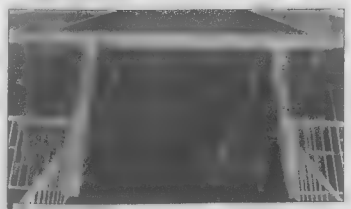
TOWN MAYOR ARRESTED

Justine Kimoden Western Review

Drayton Valley Mayor Glenn McLean was arrested by the RCMP and brought to a make-shift jail at Eldorado School. Members of the community donated money to "bail" the mayor out. Money raised for the mayor's bail were donated to Drayton Valley's Warming Hearts. The total amount of money raised was $839.70

HHHF HANDS OVER KEY TO RIEHLS AND HANSONS





Justine Kimoden Western Review

Humans Helping Humans Foundation (HHHF) held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the duplex built on 45 Street in Drayton Valley. The ceremony was attended by members of the community including Mayor Glenn McLean and HHHF president Hack Hamdon. Keys were also turned over to the families: Hansons and Riehls.

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School notebook

Fridas the 18th is the last day for contributions to the Santa's Anonymous Campaign. The collection bin is located in the school lobby.

Thank you to the grade 6 classes for your fundraising bake sale. You raised $1248.40 for charity.

4L had a visit from Mrs. Harris yesterday who puts together Christmas baking tins and donates them to those who visit Warming Hearts over the holidays. The students created cards to accompany the baking.

Grade 6 students were engaged participating in a Branding Session with Town Council members and local experts. Thanks for taking the time to see what our future generation sees for the Town of Drayton Valley!

Leisure swim is Tuesday the 15th. Remember to pack a swimsuit and towel.

After school sports will resume the week of January 4.

The hot lunch program will resume January 11.

For up-to-date news and pictures visit us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/AutoRalElementary.

Friday is the last day of school and we resume classes on January 4, 2016! Have a happy and safe holiday and we'll see you in the new year.

ST. ANTHONY

Congratulations to the following students on winning the Drayton Valley Legion branch Literacy & Poster contest:

Junior Essay 2nd place: Abigail Brown. Primary Black & White Poster 1st place, Samson Bergen, 2nd place; Jasmin Lemus. Junior Black & White Poster: 1st place Corissa Riddoch. Junior Colored Poster, 1st place Patrycja Jurusik. Intermediate Black & White Poster 1st place: Mathea Cruickshank, 2nd place: Brent Sarty.

Christmas cheer started ringing through the school the evening of December 7th as the Kindergarten, grade 3 and grade 2 classes performed for family and friends. The following evening family and friends joined grades 3-6 as they performed several Christmas songs. Thank you Mr. Nowicki for all the hard work and dedication in creating such an amazing concert.

From the staff at St. Anthony School, May Jesus always be your joy, your hope, your song. And may this Christmas and each day of the New Year be directed by His guiding hand of love!

Shazik Park News

Panago Pizza Vouchers fundraiser: $10.00 per Voucher for 1 Medium Pizza. $7.00 from each voucher sold will go to the Shark Park. Honored at any Panago Pizza across Canada!

Important Reminders

Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for Alberta weather. Our playground can be quite windy. Bus students need to be well prepared in case a bus should break down. Please label all jackets, lunch bags, shoes, hats, boots (visibly on the outside) and snow pants.

Notebook continued to page 31

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Drayton Valley

School notebook

Notebook continued from page 30

We often have incidences of students wearing the wrong footwear. It will be outdoor recess unless weather drops below -20.

Please ensure that you use the crosswalk when you drop off your children. We want our students to be safe at all times.

There is a Handicapped parking spot on the South side of the crosswalk in the front of the school. It is marked with blue paint. Please make sure that you are not parked in this spot, as this spot needs to be available for those who require it.

Please pull into a parking spot (where there is NO yellow paint) when dropping off or picking up students in the back or front parking lots of the school.

Office hours are 8:00-4:00. Parents please make sure you call the office or email if your child will be late or absent. If you have reached the answering machine please leave a message as staff are unavailable to answer the phone.

Dates to Remember

14th - All grades Free Swim, please watch your child's agenda for times.

16th - Mon/Wed Preschool Christmas concert 9:30, Living Nativity 2:00 & 7:00 performances in the back parking lot

17th - Tues/Thurs Preschool Christmas concert 9:30 & 1:30

18th -Last school day of 2015

December 21st till January 1st Christmas Vacation

January 6th - Back to school

Most up-to-date info can be found at stanstarcatholic.ab.ca or Facebook: St Anthony School Drayton Valley

TOMAHAWK

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

The winter season is most definitely here bringing with it, at times, very cold weather. Please ensure your children dress appropriately in snow pants, jackets, toques and mitts so they can enjoy their playtime outside during recess and be warm and safe on their bus ride to and from school. Please label all clothing and boots with your child's name so they can be easily identified if lost.

December 3rd kick-offed the "12 Days of Christmas" at Tomahawk School with a wide variety of Christmas activities taking place. Some of the activities include "Good Deed Day", shoveling snow, baking cookies, writing letters to Santa, and so much more.

Dental clinics were held for some students in Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2 and 3 students December 7-10th.

Friends of Tomahawk School Society hosted an archery tournament December 1st and 2nd. Thank you to the organizers, participants, volunteers and supporters. Further information will follow next week.

Thank you to Friends of Tomahawk School for supporting our Artist in Residency Dance Program and paying half of the funds needed to bring in this program for our students. Thank you to Tracy Lockwood our amazing instructor.

Christmas season is upon us which means that students and staff are busy preparing for Christmas. The Christmas Concert will be held Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00pm. We would like to extend a warm welcome to parents and relatives, friends, neighbors and the entire community to join us in these festivities.

Notebook continued to page 32

School notebook

Notebook continued from page 31

The Friends of Tomahawk School Society will hold a 'Sweet Silent Auction' in conjunction with our Christmas Concert celebration. They are looking for donations of baked goods including cakes, cookies, bars, or your favorite holiday treat. They will be accepting bids before the concert begins and for approximately 15 minutes after the concert has concluded. This is a wonderfully delicious way of raising funds for our school and an opportunity to pick up some baked goodies for Christmas entertaining. Donations of baked goods need to be delivered to the school by 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 15th so that the sale items can be marked and displayed prior to the concert. Please send baked goods on plates/platters that you do not need returned. If you are able to bring a food item for the auction, please call Mrs. Desiree Janzen at 780-621-6269 or Tomahawk School at 780-339-3935. Thank you in advance to everyone for their baked goodies and support.

Our junior high students play host to other students in grades 7-9 from Entwistle, Seba Beach and Wabamun Schools for a Sparkle and Shine Christmas Dance on Friday, December 18th. Wear your best! DJ services will be provided by Tomahawk's very own Sound View DJ Services.

Until Christmas break Tomahawk School is running our "Wishing Tree" Campaign. In our office we have a tree that is covered in Christmas wish tags for local families in need. For every wish filled, a Christmas ornament goes on the tree. Our goal is to have the tree fully decorated with ornaments by December 17th! Let's brighten the lives of families in our own community.

Thank you to everyone who has already, so graciously, donated gifts to this wonderful cause.

Christmas break will start December 21st with students returning back to school January 4th. May everyone enjoy a safe and happy holiday season! From our family to yours - Merry Christmas!

FMHS PRESENTS LAND OF THE DEAD

The Frank Maddock High School's (FMHS) Advance Acting Class performed William Shakespeare's Land of the Dead by John Heimbach from Dec. 3 to 5 at FMHS theatre.

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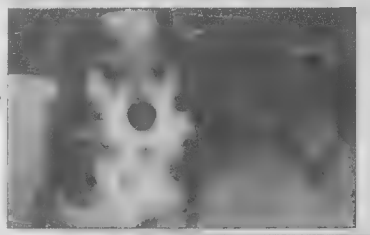
News

CAUSE FOR CRITTERS PET OF THE WEEK



Daphne is a beautiful small three year old Dollie cross. She has long hair and is equipped for colder weather. Daphne has a very good temperament. She is great with children, cats and other dogs; no long as she has a proper introduction. Daphne would make a great companion for all types of families. Find out more about Daphne by contacting the Cause for Critters animal shelter. Buy #3-5450-56 St., www.cause-for-critters.ca, or 780-696-7297. Come and help us name our mascot at Jocelyn's Independent by donating to CFC to have your graciously tagged on the afternoon of Saturday, December 19!

Got a news tip?

Call the [illegible]
Review [illegible]
day [illegible]
780-[illegible]

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Market Report DECEMBER 9, 2015

On Wednesday, December 9, 2015 1506 head of cattle were through our ring & [illegible]

[illegible]

Feeder Cattle Sales: 1 300 lbs Plus 150.00-172.00

Heifers NA

Heifers 1 450 lbs Plus [illegible]

[illegible]

Good Feeder Steers 800 lbs Plus [illegible]

Good Feeder Steers 600 lbs Plus [illegible]

Baby Calves Beef Type [illegible]

Stock Cow Sales [illegible]

Purebred Sale Barns NA/NI

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SUNDAY, DEC 27TH, 2015 @ 12:00 NOON

AT THE CLYMONT HALL (PREVIEWING @ 10:30 AM)

Terms: Cash/Cheque/Debit/Visa/Mastercard + GST will apply where applicable • Lunch Available

Directions: West of Leduc on Hwy#39 to Hwy#60, north 20 km to Clymont Hall or North of Devon on Hwy#60, 9 km to Clymont Hall (51423 Hwy 60 on East side of Highway)

GAS PUMPS: **1923's Gilmore Rapid Dayton 600 Visible Gas Pump **1920's Prairie Cities Buffalo Butler Visible Gas Pump **1930's North Star Martin Swartz Clock Face Gas Pump **1930's Red Indian Bennett Clock Face Gas Pump **1930's Red Indian Wayne 70 Gas Pump with Station Lights **1940's Polly Gas Bennett Electric Gas Pump **1950's Harley Davidson Tokheim Gas Pump **SERVICE STATION AIR METERS, LUBESTERS ETC: **Eco Air Meter #96 with Pedestal Red Indian **Eco Air Meter #98 with Pedestal Prairie Cities **Aero Air Wall Mount Air Meter **Rare Revere Fluted Cast Iron Air and Water Station Pole **Rare Art Deco Swivel Service Station Cash Register/Receipt Machine **Oil Lubesters Buffalo, Red Indian, Harley Davidson **Red Indian Greaser **Harley Davidson Greaser **Prairie Cities Oil Greaser **Bubble Wheel Balancer **Steer Head/Bar Alignment Machine **Champion Spark Plug Cleaning Machine **Autolite Battery Cart **Autolite Battery Stand **Imperial 3 Star Mobil Gargoyle Oil Rack – excellent cond. **Perazzi Sound Your Z Oil Rack **5 Oil Bottles and Carrier **Fiverco Oil Bottle **Rare Red Indian Pint Oil Bottle **Gas Pump Calibration Can **Rare McColl Frontenac Gasoline Can **Rare Embossed North Star Gasoline Can **Rare Embossed Shell Gasoline Can **3 excellent Red Head 5 gallon pail **Rare Ford Benzol Glass Globe **Original Tydol Gasoline Lens with Original Narrow Body Glass Globe **Original Co-op Gasoline Globe **Selection of Gasoline Cans – Red Indian, Texaco etc **Great selection of oil tins White Rose, B/A, North Star Purity (96 etc.) **Traffic Light – working cond **Parking Meter **Tire Hydrant **SODA, BARBER SHOP & CASINO MEMORABILIA: **Rare Original Coca Cola Neon Button sign single sided **Rare Coca Cola Round Ice Box **Coca Cola Vendo 26 Drink Machine working cond. **Pepsi Slider Drink Machine working cond. **Coca Cola Picnic Cooler **3-Tropicana Tournament Slot Machine – excellent working cond **Wurlitzer Wall Mount Jukebox – working cond. **Carved Wooden Cigar Store Wooden Indian **Wall Mount Barber Pole **Large Big Boy Statue – 8 ft tall **Life sized Blues Brothers Statues **Life sized Gas Attendant Statue **Life sized Mechanic Attendant Statue MISCELLANEOUS: **Tire Station Call Box **Coin Operated Horse Ride – working cond. **Large Train Bell on stand **Large cast church bell **Chrome Pay Telephone **Trolley Car Fare Box **Gamblers Lighted Chrome Stand up Ashtray **Rosebell Arcade upright game – working cond. **Peter Wright Anvil – very nice **John Deere Cast Iron Tractor Seat **John Deere Cast Iron Letter Holder **Texaco Buddy L Truck **Case Eagle Desk Statue **Case Eagle Tractor Hood Ornament **Old Brass Car horn **Large Bear Trap **Early Automobile Lamp Lights **Railway Lanterns SPECIAL EDITION ADVERTISING SIGNS: **John Deere Sign **Texaco Aviation Sign **B/A Sign **White Rose Sign **Texaco Pin up Sign **Indian Gasoline **Red Indian Sign NEON SIGNS: **Original Porcelain Esso Sign with Neon **Original Mobiloil Sign with Neon **Original Porcelain Standard Sign with Neon **Original Porcelain Fuestone Sign with Neon **Mobil Pegasus Horse Sign with Neon **Lincoln Neon **Small Texaco Neon **Dad's Garage Neon sign **Yellow Rose Pin-up Girl Neon Sign ADVERTISING MEMORABILIA: **Rare Porcelain Sunoco Double Sided Sign with original hanger **5 Ft Double Sided North Star Sign with original sign ring **[illegible] Double Sided Sign **Porcelain Gargoyle Motor Oil Sign **[illegible] Double Sided Sign **Porcelain Imperial 3 Star / Marwolus Sign **[illegible] Sign **Porcelain Harley Davidson Sign **Porcelain Whippet and Willys Knight Sign **Porcelain Ford Genuine Parts Sign **Porcelain Enerco Sets Boy Sign **Porcelain Texaco Fire Chief Pump Plate **Porcelain Dunlop [illegible] No Smoking Sign **Original Rec Disaster Lattes Sign **Anglo Oil Sign **Mevolene Motor Oil Sign **Foam Clock working cond **Thrush Mufflers **Tally tire **Tinca Light Up Display **Marshall Tires Sign Allen Rubber Tyrtler Light Display **Bellknap Tires Sign **Dunlop Performance Tires Sign **Firestone First For Safety Metal Sign **Stop Here For Brake Service Sign **Exide Batteries Round Thermometer **Willard Batteries Sign **Fisk Tire Paper Sign **Alemite Motor Oil Sign **Gulf Clock working cond. **Gulf Light Up Sign **Gulf Power of Performance Sign **Lubrolyal Tire Light up Sign with working clock **American Brake Blok Display Cabinet **Nasa Light up Sign **Bowes Sea Fast Tire Repair Display **Uniroyal Tire Display **Perfect Circle Piston Ring Sign **Seiberling Tires Safety Cardboard Display **Battery Service Kit **Union Tires Sign **Original Orange Crush Clock working cond. **Rare Orange Crush Door Push Sign **Drink Orange Crush Embossed Sign **Orange Crush Gumball Machine **Coca Cola Sign with Bottle **Coca Cola Fishtail Vertical Sign **Enjoy Coca [illegible] **Coca Cola Thermometer Sign – 29 inches tall **Coca Cola Button Sign **Coca [illegible] Hostess and Wagon **Pepsi Double Dot Syrup Can **Bay Pepsi Please Sign **Pepsi Cola Bottle Carriers **Pepsi Cola Double Dot 5 Cent **Hits The Spot Sign **Squirt Clock working cond. **Root Beer Round Sign **Dr Bankers Thermometer **Ford V8 Thermometer **Ford "Let Take It Easy" License Plate Topper **Winchester Ammunition Box **Peters Remington Calendar **Porcelain Telephone Flange Sign **Railway Lunsang Sign

LIST IS SUBJECT TO ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS NO BUYER'S PREMIUM

The Premier Service Station 4th Annual Sale will be one of the top sales in Western Canada this year. This sale features an excellent selection of excellent gas pumps, air meters, signs, soda & gas station items. The sale will have approximately 200 lots of very high quality items. It has many rare and one of a kind pieces – it's a sale you don't want to miss!

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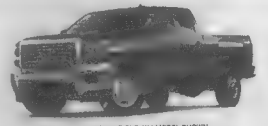

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Obituaries

LUCIEN (Lou) DAVID JOSEPH REGNIER

April 23, 1926 – December 5, 2015

It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of Lucien Regnier of Drayton Valley, Alberta at the age of 89 years.

Lou will be greatly missed by his son Loren (Debbie), grandchildren David (Christine), Tim (Mandy), Marcie (Caleb) and Kathryn (Nathan) as well as 9 great grandchildren, his sister Annette as well as numerous nieces and nephews, relatives and friends

He will also be lovingly remembered and missed by his friend and partner Nancy Showers and her family; daughters Anne (Frank), Linda, Marion (Doug), son Dan (Rita), 12 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren and 4 great, great grandchildren. Lou was so blessed to be part of this wonderful family for many years

Lou was predeceased by his wife Tena (1992), his 5 sisters, 2 brothers and a great granddaughter.

Lou had such a varied and interesting life. He trapped and logged, built sleds and log cabins, both actual and miniature. He worked in the oil patch and ran his own business. He built tables and chairs, hope chests and pretty much anything you could think of. In his later life he took up painting. Lou was a great storyteller and really enjoyed and loved people. We will truly miss him.

Funeral services were held on Friday, December 11, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at Drayton Valley Funeral Services-Tinant Chapel.

If friends so desire memorial donations in Lou's memory may be made to the Kidney Foundation of Canada 202-11227 Jasper Ave NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 0L5

DRAYTON VALLEY FUNERAL SERVICES are in care of arrangements. Call 780-542-5511.

Online condolences www.draytonvalleyfuneralservices.com

Obituaries

Elmer Leverrl Madsen

1938-2015

Elmer Leverrl Madsen of Drayton Valley passed into the arms of his loving heavenly Father on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at the age of 77 years. After a two and a half year battle with cancer, he is no longer in pain

Elmer leaves to cherish his memory, his loving wife Maxine, his stepson Reg (Carrie) grandchildren, Rashel and Garnet, son Leverrl, daughter Kathleen (Doug) and granddaughters, Alixe and Abbie, as well as many other family and friends.

Elmer loved the Lord first and foremost. If you needed a helping hand, you could count on him. He loved what he did, whether it was the fire department, museum, church, farming or church camp.

He loved his grandchildren, they were the light of his life.

In respect of Elmer's wishes a Private Family Service will be held

If friends so desire memorial donations may be made to Deer Valley Meadows Camp, Box 690, Alix, AB T0C 0B0 or to Alberta Cancer Foundation, Cross Cancer Institute, (Prostate Dept) 11560 University Ave., Edmonton, AB T6G 1Z2

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dr Venner at the Cancer Clinic for the care given to Elmer. You were right, the other shoe dropped on December 8th

Drayton Valley Funeral Services

in care of arrangements.

780-542-5511

Condolences: www.draytonvalleyfuneralservices.com

Lewis Allen Seely -

May 13, 1930 - December 6, 2015. On December 6, 2015, with great sadness, we said goodbye to a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He is cherished and will be greatly missed by Darlene, his loving wife of 66 years, his children, Linda (Louis) Couture, Diane (Dwayne) McGinn, Allen (Richelle) Seely and Hal (Carla) Seely, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Our family would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our friends and relatives, and the doctors and nursing staff at the Drayton Valley Hospital and Care Centre for their care, love and support during this time. A celebration of Lewis' life was held on December 13, 2015 at the Buck Lake Hall. In lieu of flowers, donations in Lewis' memory may be made to the Drayton Valley Hospital Foundation's CT Scanner Fund.

In Memoriams

Terry Matalski

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, so loved, so missed, so very dear.

Love

~ from All of Us

Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while lo... someone deeply gives you cour...

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April 23, 1926 – December 5, 2015

It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of Lucien Regnier of Drayton Valley, Alberta at the age of 89 years.

Lou will be greatly missed by his son Loren (Debbie); grandchildren David (Christine), Tim (Mandy), Marcie (Caleb) and Kathryn (Nathan) as well as 9 great grandchildren, his sister Annette as well as numerous nieces and nephews, relatives and friends

He will also be lovingly remembered and missed by his friend and partner Nancy Showers and her family; daughters Anne (Frank), Linda, Marion (Doug), son Dan (Rita), 12 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren and 4 great, great grandchildren. Lou was so blessed to be part of this wonderful family for many years

Lou was predeceased by his wife Tena (1992), his 5 sisters, 2 brothers and a great granddaughter.

Lou had such a varied and interesting life. He trapped and logged, built sleds and log cabins, both actual and miniature. He worked in the oil patch and ran his own business. He built tables and chairs, hope chests and pretty much anything you could think of. In his later life he took up painting. Lou was a great storyteller and really enjoyed and loved people. We will truly miss him.

Funeral services were held on Friday, December 11, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at Drayton Valley Funeral Services-Tinant Chapel.

If friends so desire memorial donations in Lou's memory may be made to the Kidney Foundation of Canada 202-11227 Jasper Ave NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 0L5.

DRAYTON VALLEY FUNERAL SERVICES are in care of arrangements. Call 780-542-5511.
Online condolences www.draytonvalleyfuneralservices.com

Obituaries

Elmer Levern Madsen
1938-2015

Elmer Levern Madsen of Drayton Valley, passed into the arms of his loving heavenly Father on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at the age of 77 years. After a two and a half year battle with cancer, he is no longer in pain.

Elmer leaves to cherish his memory, his loving wife Maxine, his stepson Reg (Carrie) grandchildren Raishel and Garnet, son Levern, daughter Kathleen (Doug) and granddaughters Alixe and Abbie, as well as many other family and friends.

Elmer loved the Lord first and foremost. If you needed a helping hand, you could count on him. He loved what he did, whether it was the fire department, museum, church, farming or church camp.

He loved his grandchildren, they were the light of his life.

In respect of Elmer's wishes a Private Family Service will be held.

If friends so desire memorial donations may be made to Deer Valley Meadows Camp Box 690 Alix, AB T0C 0B0 or to Alberta Cancer Foundation Cross Cancer Institute, (Prostate Dept) 11560 University Ave. Edmonton, AB T6G 1Z2

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Venner at the Cancer Clinic for the care given to Elmer. You were right, the other shoe dropped on December 8th.

Drayton Valley Funeral Services
in care of arrangements.
780-542-5511
Condolences: www.draytonvalleyfuneralservices.com

Lewis Allen Seely -
May 13, 1930 - December 6, 2015. On December 6, 2015, with great sadness, we said goodbye to a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He is cherished and will be greatly missed by Darlene, his loving wife of 66 years, his children, Linda (Louis) Couture, Diane (Dwayne) McGinn Allan (Richelle) Seely and Hal (Carla) Seely, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Our family would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our friends and relatives, and the doctors and nursing staff at the Drayton Valley Hospital and Care Centre for their care, love and support during this time. A celebration of Lewis' life was held on December 13, 2015 at the Buck Lake Hall. In lieu of flowers, donations in Lewis' memory may be made to the Drayton Valley Hospital Foundation's CT Scanner Fund.

In Memoriams

Terry Matalski

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, so loved, so missed, so very dear.

Love
– from All of Us

"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage."

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Obituaries | In Memoriam | Thanks
Births | Celebrations | More

In Memoriams

In Memory of
Terry Matalski
who was tragically taken from us Dec. 18, 2010

Gone are the days we used to share
But in our hearts you're always there
Never more than a thought away
Loved and remembered every day

Love always, Lynn, Blair, Gina, Owen & Jacob
Brad, Lee-Ann, Kasey & Addie

Personal Notices

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2BDRM bsmt Drayton Valley, newly renovated [illegible] 4 appliances, $ [illegible] [illegible] references required. No pets. Available immediately! [illegible] lorl@dejanira.ab.ca

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[illegible] Sale [illegible] Sale [illegible] Sale [

Careers

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Kandrea Insulation is looking for a full-time **Receptionist\Administrator** to assist our team in Drayton Valley. The Receptionist\Administrator will work closely with the Controller and our Administrative team.

Highlights of the position include:
- Greeting Customers
- Answering, screening, transferring and taking messages for all calls
- Maintaining the necessary office and kitchen supplies
- Entering Field tickets into the Payroll system
- Entering deposits into the Accounting system
- General Office Duties including: filing, banking, mail, maintaining office equipment

Qualifications:
- High School/GED
- Previous experience in a Receptionist and/or Administrator role is preferred
- Ability to work during scheduled office hours
- Respectful, honest, trustworthy and sound work ethic

Competencies:
- Teamwork
- Professionalism
- Problem solving
- Communication and organization
- Attention to detail

Kandrea Insulation is looking for a full-time **Accounts Receivable Administrator** to assist our team in Drayton Valley. The A/R Administrator will work closely with the Controller and our Administrative team.

Highlights of the position include:
- Data Entry
- Invoicing Jobs
- Running Reports
- Providing support to the Accounting Department and field offices
- General Office Duties including filing

Qualifications:
- High School/GED
- Previous experience in an A/R Administrator role is preferred
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office and accounting principles
- Understanding of labor, material and equipment invoicing

Competencies:
- Teamwork
- Customer Focus
- Problem solving
- Attention to detail
- Communication

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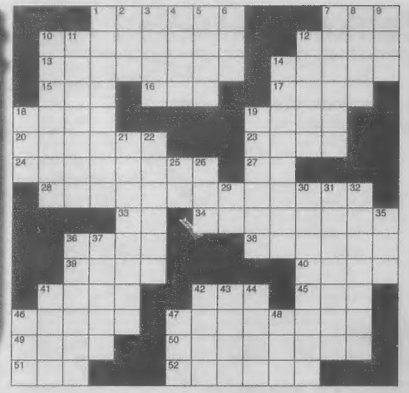

CLUES ACROSS
1. Red wine
7. Best nurse-patient aid
10. Footwear closure
12. Chinese dynasty 1122-221 BC
13. Persuade to one's side
14. Advocate
15. Mandela's party
18. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
17. About aviation
18. Shallowest of the Greats
19. [illegible]
20. Frightened
23. Brews
24. Relates
27. Atomic #52
28. Up the ants
33. The "Kings's" initials
34. Lepton
36. Cornmeal mush (British)
38. One who analyzes syntactically
39. Algonquian tribe
40. Systems, doctrines, theories
41. Herb __, San Francisco columnist
42. Informed about the latest trends
45. Seven
46. Morocco's capital
47. What a doctor practices
49. Beaks
50. In a way, extends
51. A number or amount not specified
52. Gambling

CLUES DOWN
1. Composition for orchestra and soloists
2. Bulgarian monetary unit
3. Settled upon
4. Common frog genus
5. Electronic counter-countermeasures
6. Golf ball supporter
7. Divided into 3
8. Crazy (Spanish)
9. Billiards stick
10. More deficient
11. Solomon Islands capital
12. Larval crabs
14. Malta capital
18. Clairvoyance
19. Tomato condiment
21. Alleviation
22. French seaport
25. New Testament
26. Shortened (abbr.)
29. Employee (abbr.)
30. Opposite of leaving
31. Lip locking
32. Foes
35. Many not ands
36. Covered with healing scrapes
37. Regions
41. Abel's brother (Bible)
42. Greek Queen of the gods
43. Esau's descendants (Bible)
44. Canarium ovatum
46. Ribonucleic acid
47. Gas usage measurement
48. An oppositional argument

SUDOKU

Here's How it Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

	5	7		9				
2		3					6	7
8	6							
				9			3	1
				4		2		
			5	1			4	
			1	7		3		4
	7					8		3
		8						5

ANSWER

4	5	7	8	9	1	2	3	6
2	9	3	4	6	5	8	6	7
8	6	1	2	3	7	5	9	4
5	4	6	9	7	2	3	1	8
3	1	9	4	2	8	6	7	5
7	2	5	6	1	3	4	8	9
9	3	4	1	5	6	7	2	1
6	7	2	3	8	9	1	5	3
1	8	8	7	4	4	9	4	5

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
This can be a terrific week for you, Aries. Make the most of every moment and don't be surprised as you successfully juggle many different things at once.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Work may seem overwhelming at times in the week ahead, Taurus. Keep your head down and stay focused on the tasks at hand. Others will be impressed.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, make the most of an opportunity to move forward with your goals. You have plenty of energy, and your mind is focused. Hang around with like-minded individuals as well.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Don't get too wrapped up in other people's business, Cancer. You don't want to intrude on others, and your loved ones are fully capable of solving their own problems.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, you may feel like you're on top of the world this week. That's because you have the potential to conquer an elusive goal in the next few days.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Act now, Virgo, or you might get left behind. You can't sit around and wait for things to unfold. Sometimes you have to take charge, and this is one of those times.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
There may be some conflict in your world this week, Libra, especially when it involves your emotions and potential disputes. Keep your mind open and try new things.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, concern yourself with substantive actions and not empty promises. This will make it easier for you to make decisions about pressing issues.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Try not to spread yourself too thin, Sagittarius. If you do, you will not be able to put your best foot forward. If you feel yourself getting stressed, step back.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, now is a great time to take a step back and exhale. Avoid taking on any additional responsibilities. Instead, take some time to recharge.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, let friends know how much they mean to you because you might not say it often enough. Others will appreciate your candor and generosity.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, you tend to hold your feelings inside and that can be unhealthy. Share your feelings more often so negative energy will not build.

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Community events

Mondays
• Sit and Get Fit exercise class @ 10 a.m. at Sunrise Village (3902-47th St.) Exercises done from a chair. All seniors welcome.
• First and third — Brain Injury Support Group meets @ Mitch's at 12:30 p.m.
• Bingo at the Drayton Valley Legion. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
• Line dancing @ the Scout Hall, 7-8:30 p.m.
• Bingo Tomahawk Agra Centre, doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo at 7:30 p.m. 780 339-2423 or 780 339-3747 for information!
1st Monday
• DV Art Club meetings, 7 p.m. 542-7320.
• Kin-Club meetings, (780) 621-0517
Tuesdays
• Anger hurts everyone. DV Family Support & Intervention Program, women's group, 7-9 p.m. 542-6702 for more info.
1st & 3rd Tuesday
• Royal Purple meetings, Westwind Motor Inn (upstairs), 7:30 p.m. Morna @ 542-2854 for info.
• Al-Anon meetings for friends and family of alcoholics takes place every Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. at the United Church of Canada in Drayton Valley.
2nd Tuesday
• Metis Cultural Youth Society meets @ 7 p.m. at FMHS Outreach. 780-542-9396 for more info.
• Pre-school swim, 12-12:40 p.m. @ DV Pool. 696-2643 for info.
Wednesdays
• Derrick Toastmasters meet 7-8:30 p.m. @ NorQuest College Campus. Everyone welcome. Call Marc @ 780-729-4932 for more info.
•Sit and Get Fit exercise class @ 10 a.m. at Sunrise Village (3902-47th St.) Exercises done from a chair. All seniors welcome.
• DV Family Support & Intervention Program, men's group, 7-9 p.m. 542-6702
• TOPS meetings, 12-2 @ Church of God. 542-4288, 542-7653
• Warming Hearts Soup Kitchen, 11:30-1:30 @ Drayton Valley Royal Canadian Legion
• Drayton Valley Evergreen Farmers Market from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. between March and December.
1st Wednesday
• Brazeau Regional Search and Rescue @ 7 p.m. Don @ 780-542-2817.
new members welcomed.
• Buck Creek Community Assoc. general meetings.
• Women in the Wind meets @ River Rock (Super 8), 7 p.m.
2nd Wednesday
• D.V. Citizens on Patrol Society (COPS) meets, 7 p.m. Visit www.draytonvalleycop.com to get involved.
3rd Wednesday
• Jamboree @ Wildwood Community Hall. Doors open 5:30 p.m.
• DV Genealogical Society meets, 7 p.m. @ Wishing Well. For information call 780-542-2787.
4th Wednesday
• Max Performing Arts Centre board meeting, 3:45 p.m. on Max mezzanine.
• Wildwood Community Hall board meets, 7:30 p.m. @ the hall.
Last Wednesday
• DV & District Cancer Support Group meets, 11:30 a.m., Arcadia room, Westwind, Howard @ 780-542-2735 and Fern @ 780-542-5416 for info.
• DV and District Historical Society meets, 1 p.m. at senior's drop-in centre.
Thursdays
• Narcotics Anonymous meetings, 7 p.m. @ United Church
• Brighter Futures Indoor Playground in Violet Grove, 10-11:30 a.m. Call 780-514-5070 or 780-696-2543 for more information.
• Drayton Valley Fine Art Society PAINT IN! NOON at the Lutheran Church
2nd Thursday
• Masonic Lodge meetings, 7:30 p.m. (780) 542-5473.
• DV Hospital Auxiliary meets, 7 p.m. @ the hospital
• General meeting for Entwistle Community Hall @ the hall starting @ 7:30 p.m. except June, July, August.
3rd Thursday
• DV Hearts & Hands Quilters' Guild at Emmaus Lutheran Church, at 7 p.m.
Fridays
•Sit and Get Fit exercise class @ 10 a.m. at Sunrise Village (3902-47th St) Exercises done from a chair. All seniors welcome.
• Al-Anon meets, 8 p.m., Evansburg Catholic Church. Cheryl @ 727-6671 for more information.
• Take Off Pounds Sensibly meets in the basement of the Church of God from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Connie @ 780-621-0466 for information.
Saturdays
• Fun crib tournament, 1 p.m. Big T Golf Club in Breton.

Know of a free community event?
Call the Western Review editorial department at 780-542-5380

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Youth & Ministries Info – calvbapt@telus.net
Pastoral Team: Lorne Trudgian and Kenton Penner

The United Church of Canada
Sunday Worship at **10:30 am**
Sunday School at 10:30 am
Church Office 780-542-5743
Email: dvuc@telus.net • www.dvuc.ca
5029 - 48 Street, Drayton Valley

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YOUTH: Fri. at 7:00 p.m. during the school year
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Homes

Top five tips: Picking the best live Christmas tree

With Christmas less than 2 weeks away (!) many readers will head out this weekend in search of the perfect live Christmas tree. If you are among the many that will wade on to 'cut your own' farms and retail lots this weekend, be sure to arm yourself with these facts. As you part with your hard earned cash you are investing not just in a large Christmas deco- ration but, for many, a tradition that has meaning beyond monetary value.

Be sure to approach the buying (and cutting/hauling) process as a fun project. If you are taking family members with you be sure to take your time; stop for a hot chocolate and try not to rush this experience. I often see families engage in Christmas tree buying much the same way as they would buy a family pet. In a way, a live Christmas tree IS a pet.

Prices shown are for average sized trees, usually 2 to 2.2 meters or 6 to 7 feet tall.

1. What do you want in a live tree? Determine what you are looking for in a live tree. Here is a short list of the most popular evergreens that you will find on retail lots and Christmas tree farms:

a. Scots Pine. Note, not a 'Scotch' pine. This was the biggest seller for many years, until the Fraser Fir came along. It retains its needles quite well, displays ornaments and lights with lots of space between its branches and tends to take up lots of horizontal space - they are wider than fir trees. Check out the trunk of your favourite specimen for straightness or you will curse it before you stand it upright in a tree stand. Price is lower than most fir trees, in the $20 to $30 range.

b. Fraser Fir. The #1 best seller in eastern Canada. Retains needles very well, has a soft evergreen scent, is soft to the touch, features dark green needles with a silvery underside, very dense foliage/branching and the trunk is generally straight. Classic 'spruce' type, evergreen shape. Price range $40 to $70.

c. Balsam Fir. A native tree to Central and Eastern Canada. Balsam has good needle retention, reasonably dense foliage and a great evergreen scent. It is lightweight and generally has a straight trunk. Price range $30 to $50.

d. Spruce. Colorado spruce and white spruce are often available on Christmas tree lots. They smell great and are often the perfect shape, but needle retention is a problem. Unless you are bringing it indoors for 5 days or less, I recommend that you pass on spruce.

There are other evergreens out there that fit the bill, but those listed represent over 95% of the trees sold in Canada.

Mark Cullen

Photo submitted

Mark Cullen says picking a Christmas tree is like choosing a family pet. The top trees to choose from are Scots Pine, Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir and Spruce. Keep it fresh once you've chosen one, and keep it hydrated. Cut the butt and make sure the tree is straight before decorating.

2. Cut the butt. Fred Somerville, president of Somerville Nurseries/Kris Kringle Christmas trees and the largest grower of Christmas trees in Ontario, suggests that, "Before you put your tree up, be sure to cut the butt end of it with a pruning saw to open up the capillaries of the tree and help it absorb water from the reservoir."

3. Get it straight. Note my comments in #1. I can't over emphasize the need to buy as straight a tree as possible. I speak from experience and anyone who has tried putting up a tree with a 'wow' or hook in it knows what I am talking about. If you happen to have a tippy tree, consider extending a string from a hook in the ceiling to the leader of the tree to secure it in an upright position.

4. After care. Fred emphasizes that you need to water your tree daily and consider how you will dispose of your tree when you're done with it. I take my tree out of doors right after Christmas and place it in the garden, minus the ornaments. I hang suet balls on it and let the birds use it for protection against winter wind. It adds some 'winter interest' in the garden and come spring, I cut it up for the 'green' pick up at the end of the driveway.

And finally, Fred reminds us that, "Real trees are renewable, recyclable and 100% biodegradable." All true.

Mark Cullen appears on Canada AM every Wednesday morning at 8:40. He is the Lawn and Garden expert for Home Hardware. Sign up for his free monthly newsletter at www.markcullen.com.

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Four bedrooms. Great location $295,000 #21 Call Cheryl #4001502

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